



FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

JANUARY 2015

Legion Contacts

Commander

Myron Ehrich

220 Irvin Street

West Concord, MN 55985

507/527/2578 or

507/259/5261

Adjutant

Wayne Hammon Jr

115 East Cabot St

LeRoy, MN 55951

507/324/9301 or

507/696/2707

1stadjutant@gmail.com

Membership

Sy Fix

1930 County 3

Brownsville, MN 55919

507/482/6226 or

507/313/3376

papafix1@gmail.com

From your Commmander:

Here we go the start of 2015, a New Year. I wish to thank the American Legion Post 164 of Stewartville for hosting a great Christmas Party. The Christmas Caroling group also did a fabulous job singing at the Care Center.

Hope to see a good turn out for the Mid-Winter Rally January 18th in La Crescent Post 595

I have received paper work for my Veteran Cemetery Project in Preston. Adjutant Wayne has copies of the forms. I am purchasing a gun safe for them to store their guns and ammo in.

Because the State Military Cemeteries are a under government control they are eligible to receive money from the gambling funds.

God Bless our active service men and women and America.

Commander Myron

WEST CONCORD POST 295 BREAKFAST

West Concord post will be holding a breakfast for the cancer telethon on Sunday January 11, 2015 from 7am until 1pm. at the post.

Pancakes, French toast, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee, milk and juice.

\$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 5 to 10 and under 5 are free.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 17, 2015 - District One Mid Winter at La Crescent Post 595, La Crescent MN. Executive Boards at 10:00 am with the mid winter starting at 11:00 am.

January 31, 2015 - First District Area Four Rally at Glenville Post 264, Glenville, MN. Social time at 3 pm and rally starting at 4 pm.

February 7, 2015 - Department Sweet Heart Rally in Chanhassen Post 580, Chanhassen, MN. Turn in from 3 to 4:30 pm, plated supper at 5:00 pm with program to follow.

DISTRICT VICE—COMMANDERS

AREA 1 Joe Brown
3611 85th St NW lot 180
Oronoco, MN 55960
507/367/2157 or 507/990/1347
Brown49tex@charter.net

AREA 2 Chuck Stone
1625 Crestview Lane
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castoney@hotmail.com

AREA 3 Carroll W. Hill
28992 Hill Rd
Winona, MN 55987
507/454/5063 or 507/438/6531
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AREA 4 Les Shaunce
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Albert Lea, MN 56007
507/373/0134 or 507/402/4878
lshaunce@smig.net

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON COMANDER MYRON'S PROJECT

We have received several requests on what Commander Myron's project is and if it can be taken out of gambling funds. The following two pages will clear that up for everyone. Myron wants to purchase a gun safe for the new SE MN Veteran Cemetery in Preston.



STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MINNESOTA STATE VETERANS CEMETERY, LITTLE FALLS



15550 Hwy 115 • Little Falls, MN 56345 • (320) 616-2527
Fax (320) 616- 2529 • www.mdva.state.mn.us • 1-888-LinkVet

December 8, 2014

Myron Ehrich
PO Box 372
West Concord MN 55985

Dear Mr. Ehrich:

Enclosed is information regarding gambling fund contributions to a unit of government as we discussed on the phone.

We also discussed our need for a gun safe to properly store ceremonial rifles and blank ammunition at the new Veterans cemetery in Preston. The ceremonial rifles will be used by honor guard squads to perform military honors for Veterans at the cemetery.

If you choose to proceed with funding or partially funding the purchase of this gun safe, the enclosed form will be needed for your records. I have filled out a sample form highlighting the required information. As noted, the last section "government approval/acknowledgment" will need to be send to my office for completion and signature.

If you have any further questions, please contact me directly at 320-616-2527.

Sincerely,

David P. Swantek, Cemetery Director
MN State Veterans Cemetery

An Equal Opportunity Employer

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529

* SAMPLE *

Minnesota Lawful Gambling

LG555 Government Approval or Acknowledgment For Use of Gambling Funds

Keep this completed form attached to the Schedule C in your organization's records. You do not need to submit this form to the Gambling Control Board or the Department of Revenue.

Organization and Expenditure Information (attach additional sheets if necessary)

Organization name _____ License number _____

Address _____

1. \$ _____ Amount of proposed lawful purpose expenditure

2. Check one expenditure category.

- A. **Contribution to a unit of government** - United States, state of Minnesota, or any of its subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities. NOTE: A contribution may not be made directly to a law enforcement or prosecutorial agency, such as a police department, county sheriff, or county attorney.
- B. **Wildlife management project or activity** that benefits the public at large, with approval by the DNR
- C. **Grooming and maintaining snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle trails** established under Minnesota Statute 84.83 and 84.927, including purchase or lease of equipment, with approval by DNR. All trails must be open to public use.
- D. **Supplies and materials for safety training and educational programs** coordinated by the DNR, including the Enforcement Division.
- E. **Citizen monitoring of surface water quality testing** for public waters by individuals or nongovernmental organizations, with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) guidance on monitoring procedures, quality assurance protocols, and data management, providing that data is submitted to the PCA.

3. Describe the proposed expenditure, including vendors.

Purchase a safe for storage of ceremonial rifles to be used by honor guard squads at the SE MN Veterans Cemetery

- **NO FINANCIAL OR OTHER BENEFIT:** I affirm that the contribution or expenditure does not result in any monetary, economic, financial, or material benefit to our organization, in compliance with Minnesota Rules 7861.0320, Subpart 17C.
- **FOR DNR-RELATED PROJECTS:** I affirm that when lawful gambling funds are used for grooming and maintaining snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle trails or for any wildlife management project for which reimbursement is received from a unit of government, the reimbursement funds must be deposited in our lawful gambling account and recorded on the Schedule C report.
- **FOR SURFACE WATER QUALITY TESTING:** I affirm that MPCA guidance has been consulted in developing the monitoring plan and that the data collected will be submitted to the MPCA. Send form for signature to: Manager, Water Monitoring Section, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155. Website is www.pca.state.mn.us.

Chief executive officer's signature _____

Daytime phone number _____

Date _____

Print name _____

Government Approval/Acknowledgment

** send to: Minnesota Veterans Cemetery
15550 Hwy 115
Little Falls MN 56345*

Check one. By signature below, the representative of the unit of government:

- Government** - acknowledges the contribution which will not be used for a pension or retirement fund.
- Wildlife DNR** - approves the wildlife management project or activity.
- Trails DNR** - approves the grooming/maintaining of snowmobile and/or all-terrain vehicle trails.
- Safety training DNR** - approves the supplies/materials for DNR safety training and educational programs.
- Water quality testing** - MPCA approves the surface water quality testing project.

for completion of this section and signature

Unit of Government _____ Phone number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Print Name _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Questions? Contact the Gambling Control Board at 651-539-1900. This form will be made available in alternative format (i.e. large print, Braille) upon request. The information requested on this form will become public information, when requested by the Board, and will be used to determine your compliance with Minnesota statutes and rules governing lawful gambling activities.

Greetings from Area One:

I am sorry that I did not make it to the District Christmas Party. My dad, William W Brown Sr, passed away on December 10 at the age of 94. He was a WWII US Army Veteran and participated in the Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes and Central Europe campaigns.

There is one item that I would like to address, and I do not intend to offend anyone. I have heard comments at the District and Post levels about the Legion Riders. One of their reasons for not accepting the Legion Riders is the way they dress. This is from comments like, "Wow just look at the way they dress." Vietnam Veterans were asked to leave Legions because their hair was too long. I heard one Past Department Officer make the following comment, "I do not understand why the younger Veterans are not joining the Legion. I know they are different than us." This individual was a WWII and Korean Veteran and I was thinking, do you mean your generation is better? If we are only accepting individuals who look and act like me, we will not grow.

I hope to see some of you at the Mid Winter on January 17th, in La Crescent.. If you need a ride please call me.

I look forward to visiting your post, and feel free to contact me. Remember our troops and first responders in your prayers during these troubling times. May God Bless America.

Area One Vice Commander

Joe P. Brown Sr

Greetings First District:

Happy New Year to the American Legion Family world wide. May all your resolutions come true and the year be a fruitful one.

With the beginning of the new year we really need to get down to work. As of December 17th we were in seventh place in Department. Now is when we have to buckle down and make those calls and knock on those doors. Don't forget membership is everyone's job. Check with your membership director or adjutant and see who hasn't paid their dues yet.

We had a great turn out at Montgomery for the Pearl Harbor Rally. Thanks to Post # 79 for a great job. We had a good membership turn in.

I'm sorry I was not able to attend the Christmas Party held in Stewartville. I'm sure Post# 164 did a great job as host. I hope there was a good turnout and the program was enjoyed by all. It was my Grandsons Birthday.

On January 17th La Crescent Post# 595 will host our Mid-winter R31st. Please plan to attend, every rally is important and I'm sure the post would appreciate a ally. Let's try to have every post represented. This is where you find out what your district is doing for the American Legion. Make sure all committee chairmen have their reports ready.

Glenville Post# 264 will host our Area Four Rally on January good turn out.

Until next month safe and healthy. Remember just ask!!!!!!!!!!!!

Area Four Vice Commander

Les Shaunce

Greetings from Area Three,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Membership is slipping a little so post commanders, please contact your not paid members. If you need my help, feel free to contact me.

This year the First District Mid-Winter will be held on January 17, 2015 in La Crescent Post 595 at 11:00 am. This is a great time to renew old friends. There will be a lot of information given out as all the committee chairman will give reports. Please plan on attending as a lot of hard work goes into putting this on.

As always keep our Service men and Women in your prayers and may God Bless the USA.

Carroll W. Hill

First District Area Three Vice Commander

Greeting to the 1st District American Legion Family,

Happy New Year and I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. Now is the time for everyone to start making phone calls for membership and going door to door. It is also the time to start thinking about Firefighter of the year, Police Officer of the year, American Legion Baseball and Boys State candidates. We need to work our programs and let the program help with getting new members.

Keep on working toward those home runs. I know you can do d those h Thank you and God bless,

Glenn Mueller,

1st and 3rd Department Vice Commander.

YOUR CHAPLAINS CORNER

Greetings, First District and happy new year to all! It is my fervent hope that all had a great holiday season.

Starting the new year off right with a prayer so here goes: Dear Lord, we thank You for these days wherein we are given the freedom to make decisions for the betterment of our Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Legion Rider programs- to obtain knowledge and the wherewithal to better care for our veterans. How to combine these efforts for a better America, always being mindful that we are "one nation under God." We pray that this will be our goal, knowing that when we place our trust in You we are assured of Your blessing. We know, Lord, all things are possible with You. Help us to be worthy as we claim this blessing, in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Getting back to service to Country: Not only must we prevent national spiritual decay, we must instill in our citizens a spirit of positive Americanism, with respect for the law, reverence for authority, and awareness of our God given rights and freedoms. This, in turn, reaps a spirit of service to community and nation.

Citizenship imposes responsibility,. As American citizens, every Legionnaire (or Legion Family member) should provide an example of integrity, self-sacrifice, hard work and a life of faith. Devotion to mutual helpfulness means service to community. No one is an island, each Post and Legion member should be eager to help their community be a good place to live, and to serve the community.

Today, our nation is beset with problems, as always. How we deal with the problems and issues today will affect the generations to come. All it takes for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing. It is incumbent on all of us to do our part in keeping America as great as it is. As I read news sources daily, I see the same constant drum beat, that instead of pulling together, there are those who wish us ill, and actively promote dissent and strife. We cannot let them triumph.

I will close this months column with the following: **IF FREEDOM FAILS, by Raymond Pitcairn.**

They speak of Liberty and of the struggles and sacrifices by which Liberty was won. To all the world the proclaim the glory of a nation created not to make its leaders strong but to make its people free. And to all Americans they hold a message vital in its import, compelling in its urgency.

Freedom, is never permanently secured. By each successive generation, it must be defended anew. Always its price remains eternal vigilance. Always its preservation demands faith and valor and sacrifice.

And Freedom, is a peculiar trust of our nation. Here, Free Government was established; here it must be preserved. With the privileges that liberty brings comes the responsibility of upholding it.

But, runs a solemn assurance, in our battle to keep men free, we do not fight alone. Back of all of us is the spirit of the Founders which our national shrines immortalize.

Washington is with us, and Jefferson and Lincoln. John Paul Jones and Anthony Wayne and Davy Crockett still uphold arms. The men who fell at Lexington, Gettysburg and Chateau Thierry are at our side. All who fought for freedom, all who knew the great devotion, are still our comrades and exemplars.

With such a comradeship, we cannot hesitate. With such a leadership, we cannot fail. Under such responsibility we dare not falter....

Hold high the Light of Liberty,

That is America's message to all her citizens. That is her message to you....

"For what avail the plow or sail, Or land, or life, if freedom fail?"

May God bless us all, and keep the light of freedom shining...

Ralph Schneekloth,
First District Chaplain

Hello All,

The year has ended but the year's membership has not. We did quite well at Pearl Harbor Rally ending up 3rd by just a nose. But it is not looking good as of this writing. We have sunk to 7th once again. We need to get call the Posts in your area and attend their meeting to see what needs to be done. It is very important that the green bar report that was handed out at packet pick-up be worked by you or the Posts. Let's not pass up the opportunity to get them out of Post at large or for those whose membership has expired get them to rejoin. If they refuse to rejoin or transfer out of Post at large then it might serve us well to find out why and keep track of that so that we can tally it up and try to find a solution.

Mid-Winter is in La Crescent on Jan. 17th so let's have a good turn out and bring whatever membership you might have at that time with you.

Sy Fix

Membership Director

OUTSTANDING FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR INFORMATION

Questions— Contact Richard Skillestad 507/250/ 5329

Applications for "Outstanding Firefighter of the Year" are now available at the Department Headquarters. This award will be presented annually at the Department Convention to the winner selected by the Law and Order Committee from the applications submitted.

Please contact Jennifer Kelly at 651-291-1800 or jkelly@mnlegion.org to obtain an application. Completed applications and scrapbooks should be sent to The American Legion, Attention: Jennifer, 20 West 12th Street, Room 300A, St Paul, Minnesota 55155-2000 by April 1, 2015.

We ask that you contact your local firefighting officials and request their assistance in nomination of individuals for this award. Also, at your next Post meeting, ask your members if they know a firefighter currently employed that would be good candidate to nominate.

The application should be supported with additional materials, to include: (1) a completed application form, (2) a 5" x 7" photograph of the nominee and (3) a maximum of 18 one-sided pages 8 1/2 x 11 bond paper of service documentation. The first six to seven pages should contain the individual's service narrative. The additional pages may include supporting citations and other documentation to include press articles. **Since The National Headquarters started a National Firefighter of the Year Award, your scrapbook should conform with National's requirements. Please read carefully and follow all instructions .**

A plaque will be presented to the winning Firefighter at The Department Convention and a plaque is presented to the Post submitting the application of the winning Firefighter of the Year Award at the same time. The winning Firefighter from Minnesota will have his/her application and scrapbook sent on to the National Security Commission in Washington, D. C. for National competition.

OUTSTANDING LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR INFORMATION

Questions - Contact Richard Skillestad 507/250/5329

Applications for “Outstanding Law Officer of the Year” are now available at the Department Headquarters. This award will be presented annually at the Department Convention to the winner selected by the Law and Order Committee from the applications submitted.

Please contact Jennifer Kelly at 651-291-1800 or jkelly@mnlegion.org to obtain an application. Completed applications and scrapbooks should be sent to The American Legion, Attention: Jennifer, 20 West 12th Street, Room 300A, St Paul, Minnesota 55155-2000 by April 1, 2015.

We ask that you contact your local law enforcement officials and request their assistance in nomination of individuals for this award. Also, at your next Post meeting, ask your members if they know a firefighter currently employed that would be good candidate to nominate.

The application should be supported with additional materials, to include: (1) a completed application form, (2) a 5” x 7” photograph of the nominee and (3) a maximum of 18 one-sided pages 8 1/2 x 11 bond paper of service documentation. The first six to seven pages should contain the individual’s service narrative. The additional pages may include supporting citations and other documentation to include press articles. **Since The National Headquarters started a National Law Officer of the Year Award, your scrapbook should conform with National’s requirements. Please read carefully and follow all instructions .**

A plaque will be presented to the winning Law Officer at The Department Convention and a plaque is presented to the Post submitting the application of the winning Law Officer of the Year Award at the same time. The winning Law Officer from Minnesota will have his/her application and scrapbook sent on to the National Security Commission in Washington, D.C. for National competition.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR ADJUTANT

Remember that Committee Chairmen are supposed to give a report at the First District Mid—Winter. If you cannot attend the Mid Winter please e-mail or send me your report by mail and I will have it read.

Mid Winter is in La Crescent on January 17, 2015. Make sure and have a hard copy of your report to give to me after you give your report. I will run this reminder in January’s newsletter also.

First District Adjutant

Wayne Hammon Jr

FIRST DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 12/17/2014

POST	LOCATION	GQAL	PREVIOUS	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	DATE
9	WINONA	708	561	1	562	79.38%	146	12/17/2014
90	LEWISTON	84	60	2	62	73.81%	22	12/17/2014
190	ST CHARLES	171	140	0	140	81.87%	31	12/10/2014
WINONA COUNTY TOTALS		963	761	3	764	79.34%	199	12/17/2014
50	WABASHA	338	289	1	290	85.80%	48	12/17/2014
110	LAKE CITY	158	148	0	148	93.67%	10	12/10/2014
179	PLAINVIEW	208	172	6	178	85.58%	30	12/17/2014
546	KELLOGG	77	67	0	67	87.01%	10	12/10/2014
573	ELGIN	56	40	1	41	73.21%	15	12/17/2014
579	MILLVILLE	131	148	2	150	114.50%	-19	12/17/2014
588	MAZEPPA	83	78	0	78	93.98%	5	11/19/2014
WABASHA COUNTY TOTALS		1051	942	10	952	90.58%	99	12/17/2014
92	ROCHESTER	1106	844	8	852	77.03%	254	12/17/2014
119	BYRON	166	133	0	133	80.12%	33	12/10/2014
164	STEWARTVILLE	327	289	0	289	88.38%	38	12/10/2014
446	ROCHESTER	10	12	0	12	120.00%	-2	9/10/2014
551	EYOTA	177	145	1	146	82.49%	31	12/17/2014
OLMSTEAD COUNTY TOTALS		1786	1423	9	1432	80.18%	354	12/17/2014
AREA ONE TOTALS		3800	3126	22	3148	82.84%	652	12/17/2014
295	WEST CONCORD	68	65	0	65	95.59%	3	12/10/2014
330	HAYFIELD	250	203	1	204	81.60%	46	12/17/2014
333	KASSON	284	247	1	248	87.32%	36	12/17/2014
384	DODGE CENTER	100	80	5	85	85.00%	15	12/17/2014
422	CLAREMONT	39	35	0	35	89.74%	4	11/19/2014
DODGE COUNTY TOTALS		741	630	7	637	85.96%	104	12/17/2014
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	127	96	0	96	75.59%	31	11/19/2014
77	OWATONNA	619	498	4	502	81.10%	117	12/17/2014
296	ELLENDALE	34	25	0	25	73.53%	9	11/6/2014
STEELE COUNTY TOTALS		780	619	4	623	79.87%	157	12/17/2014
75	NEW RICHLAND	73	64	2	66	90.41%	7	12/17/2014
228	WASECA	345	308	4	312	90.43%	33	12/17/2014
281	JANESVILLE	115	99	1	100	86.96%	15	12/17/2014
587	WALDORF	28	17	0	17	60.71%	11	10/1/2014
WASECA COUNTY TOTALS		561	488	7	495	88.24%	66	12/17/2014
AREA TWO TOTALS		2082	1737	18	1755	84.29%	327	12/17/2014

40	LANESBORO	102	94	3	97	95.10%	5	12/17/2014
68	SPRING VALLEY	88	83	0	83	94.32%	5	11/26/2014
81	HARMONY	41	28	0	28	68.29%	13	11/19/2014
94	RUSHFORD	140	134	0	134	95.71%	6	11/19/2014
166	PRESTON	79	80	1	81	102.53%	-2	12/17/2014
197	CHATFIELD	57	54	0	54	94.74%	3	12/10/2014
299	MABEL	210	156	1	157	74.76%	53	12/17/2014
369	WYKOFF	21	21	0	21	100.00%	0	9/24/2014
400	CANTON	17	16	0	16	94.12%	1	11/19/2014
492	FOUNTAIN	20	19	0	19	95.00%	1	10/1/2014
526	PETERSON	35	34	1	35	100.00%	0	12/17/2014
544	OSTRANDER	27	20	3	23	85.19%	4	12/17/2014
637	WHALEN	15	14	0	14	93.33%	1	9/10/2014
FILLMORE COUNTY TOTALS		852	753	9	762	89.44%	90	12/17/2014
191	CALEDONIA	191	166	1	167	87.43%	24	12/17/2014
249	SPRING GROVE	189	147	0	147	77.78%	42	11/26/2014
423	HOUSTON	112	73	0	73	65.18%	39	10/16/2014
498	HOKAH	22	17	2	19	86.36%	3	12/17/2014
595	LA CRESCENT	381	304	2	306	80.31%	75	12/17/2014
HOUSTON COUNTY TOTALS		895	707	5	712	79.55%	183	12/17/2014
AREA THREE TOTALS		1747	1460	14	1474	84.37%	273	12/17/2014
56	ALBERT LEA	791	654	1	655	82.81%	136	12/17/2014
264	GLENVILLE	97	74	0	74	76.29%	23	12/10/2014
266	HARTLAND	20	20	0	20	100.00%	0	9/10/2014
317	EMMONS	79	72	0	72	91.14%	7	12/10/2014
404	ALDEN	104	83	0	83	79.81%	21	11/12/2014
552	FREEBORN	42	36	0	36	85.71%	6	9/17/2014
FREEBORN COUNTY TOTALS		1133	939	1	940	82.97%	193	12/17/2014
91	AUSTIN	736	589	10	599	81.39%	137	12/17/2014
105	LYLE	98	82	5	87	88.78%	11	12/17/2014
140	GRAND MEADOW	54	43	0	43	79.63%	11	11/6/2014
146	ADAMS	217	162	20	182	83.87%	35	12/17/2014
161	LEROY	71	57	0	57	80.28%	14	12/10/2014
570	AUSTIN SPAM	6	3	0	3	50.00%	3	10/30/2014
MOWER COUNTY TOTALS		1182	936	35	971	82.15%	211	12/17/2014
AREA FOUR TOTALS		2315	1875	36	1911	82.55%	404	12/17/2014
1111	DAKOTA	32	9	0	9	28.13%	23	11/19/2014
DISTRICT ONE TOTALS		9976	8207	90	8297	83.17%	1679	12/17/2014

AREA VICE COMMANDERS								
AREA ONE		3760	3126	22	3148	83.72%	612	12/17/2014
AREA TWO		2057	1737	18	1755	85.32%	302	12/17/2014
AREA THREE		1713	1460	14	1474	86.05%	239	12/17/2014
AREA FOUR		2288	1875	36	1911	83.52%	377	12/17/2014

!!!!!!! THE FIRST DISTRICT NOW HAS A FACE BOOK PAGE !!!!!!!

We are happy to announce that all ten districts in the department of Minnesota now have face book pages. Past SAL Commander Tim Weaver is the new Facebook person for our District Our face book page is **MN FIRST DISTRICT**, please visit this page if you have a face book account and let Tim know what you think. As of the writing of this article the face book has over one hundred likes which is great for the short time that it has been up. If you have anything to post on the District Face Book page please send it to Tim at timweaver595@gmail.com

FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The First District newsletter can be found on these post web sites. Please go to them and have a look. It not only will give you access to the newsletter but also to the events happening at each of these posts. They are as follows:

Albert Lea Post 56 at americanlegionpost56.com
tinpost91.com

Austin Post 91 at [Rochester Post 92 at \[post92.org\]\(http://post92.org\)](http://aus-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

Winona Post 9 at americalegionwinona.org (click on windjammer tab)

THE NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE MAILED OUT ANYMORE. IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO WANTS IT E-MAILED TO THEM PLEASE HAVE THEM SEND THEIR NAME AND E-MAIL ADDRESS TO THE DISTRICT ADJUNT WHO'S INFORMATION IS ON THE FRONT PAGE. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER PER POST THAT HAS AN E-MAIL ACCOUNT TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER AND PRINT ONE COPY OFF FOR THE POST, IF POSSIBLE. WE WANT TO GET DISTRICT INFORMATION OUT TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.

YOUR ADULT SPORTS CHAIRMAN

Just a quick note to inform you that Albert Lea Post 56 is planning on hosting the First District Bowling tournament this year. Each post should have had the information sent to them. If you have not received yours please contact Gary Anderson at 507/373/1568.

Ralph Schneekloth

**First District Adult Sports
Chairman**

NEWS FROM YOUR PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

JANUARY: Initiation ceremonies are good membership stabilizers. Keep working on membership, especially by contacting those who became delinquent Jan. 1. A community service survey can reveal areas where additional effort is needed. This month is also a good time to present flags and copies of the flag code to local schools. Check dates for post, district or county, and state Oratorical contests. March is Community Service Month, so now is the time to plan initiatives and projects. Source: American Legion Post Officers Guide

What is Public Relations? Requires you to relate to the public in some manner. In a nutshell, public relations is primarily about IMAGE. And every member of the American Legion Family plays a role in communicating our image to the various publics to which we relate. Perception is reality for most people.

As we move into 2015, my intent is to get the PR train rolling better, but I cannot do it all alone. Communication is the backbone, if we cannot or will not effectively communicate, out shared tasks of public relations will be much more difficult, if not impossible. Getting final approval for the District to have a website coming up at Midwinter, will be a high point for me. It is another way to communicate, public relations wise, to members and prospective members. These are all tools we have, but we must use them to be more effective. Facebook, as you know, has been very successful in the past year +. I look forward to seeing it continue to be developed as we all learn how to better use it. I am looking forward to another great year serving the First District and if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. Preferred email is: schneeklothr@gmail.com and my cell number is 507-438-6319. Thank you again for allowing me serve this great organization.

Ralph Schneekloth,
District Public Relations Chair

FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



Auxiliary Contacts

President—

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michelleweaver595@gmail.com

Happy New Year;

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas. The 1st District will be holding our Mid-Winter January 17, 2015 at La Crescent Post 595. Executive committee meeting will start at 10:00 AM, Rally at 11:00. Registration \$5.00, Lunch \$8.00. Post 595 will also be having their monthly steak fry that night so we are hoping you will all plan to attend. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

When I See an Eagle

Marie Frankson

**When I see an eagle, I see a great nation
which has been founded on the principles of
equality and freedom for all.**

Secretary

Audrey Erwin

208 1st St SW
Dodge Center, MN 55927
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erwin47@kmtel.com

When I see an eagle, I see our flag flying high.

I see happy children playing and smiling and laughing and singing.

**When I see an eagle, I see a melting pot of blacks and Hispanics, Italians and Indians,
Native American and Irish which make up our country.**

Membership / First Vice

Pat Miner

106 E Oak St Box 136
Rose Creek, MN 55970
507/433/1326 or 507/251/9219
minerpa_24@msn.com

**When I see an eagle, I see no more bondage,
no more terrorism, ethnocentrism, racism, and hate.**

When I see an eagle, I see our troops fighting for what is right, fighting to keep us free.

**When I see an eagle, I see America standing tall and strong and proud behind her ser-
vicemen and women.**

**When I see an eagle, I salute and say a silent prayer of thanks for the troops who pro-
tect us.**

Treasurer

Sandy Fredrickson

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dsfredrickson@gofast.am

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans. God Bless America and the American Legion Family.

Respectfully,

Michelle Weaver

District 1 Auxiliary President

Attention all 1st District American Legion Family members.

There will be a Silent Auction to benefit the Auxiliary Emergency Fund at the District Mid-Winter in La Crescent on January 17th.

Bring items that in good condition and also baked goods: cookies, cakes, bars and pies. The silent auction at the Department Fall Conference was a great success and I know that the 1st District can add to the total.

Irene Martin
Auxiliary Emergency Fund

The 1st District will be hosting the Department Junior Conference on April 10-11, 2015 in Stewartville.

I am working on the details for the **1st District Junior Conference** which will be held on March 21, 2015 in the Community Room at Wildwood Grove in LeRoy, MN. Please remember to include the junior members in activities that your Post or Unit sponsor, they could always help with dishes or waiting tables.

JoEllen Isenberg
Jr. Activities Chairman
507-259-1940

The monthly focus for the Auxiliary are as follows:
October Education & Constitution and By Laws Month
November Past President's Parley Month
December Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Month
January National Security & Legislative Month
February Americanism Month
March Community Service Month
April Children & Youth Month
May Poppy Month
June Girls State Month
July Department Convention Month

**FIIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP
FOR DECEMBER 16, 2014**

Unit #	Name	Goal	Jr's gain	Sr's gain	Total gain	Jr's to date	Sr's to date	Totals to date	Percent
146	Adams	168	0	0	0	13	91	104	61.90%
56	Albert Lea	432	0	0	0	8	293	301	69.68%
404	Alden	65	0	0	0	0	38	38	58.46%
91	Austin	213	0	0	0	0	150	150	70.42%
52	Blooming Prairie	137	0	5	5	2	106	108	78.83%
119	Byron	105	0	0	0	14	77	91	86.67%
191	Caledonia	97	1	10	11	6	68	74	76.29%
197	Chatfield	36	0	0	0	0	34	34	94.44%
422	Claremont	30	3	18	21	3	19	22	73.33%
384	Dodge Center	107	0	18	18	2	67	69	64.49%
573	Elgin	36	0	0	0	1	18	19	52.78%
317	Emmons	29	0	0	0	0	26	26	89.66%
551	Eyota	137	0	0	0	5	76	81	59.12%
492	Fountain	22	0	1	1	1	20	21	95.45%
552	Freeborn	74	0	2	2	8	55	63	85.14%
264	Glenville	115	0	0	0	7	67	74	64.35%
140	Grand Meadow	91	0	4	4	9	62	71	78.02%
81	Harmony	50	0	0	0	12	24	36	72.00%
266	Hartland	24	0	2	2	0	14	14	58.33%
330	Hayfield	202	6	64	70	9	92	101	50.00%
498	Hokah	22	0	0	0	0	20	20	90.91%
423	Houston	155	0	0	0	18	92	110	70.97%
281	Janesville	69	0	0	0	0	51	51	73.91%
333	Kasson	179	0	5	5	5	131	136	75.98%
546	Kellogg	168	2	4	6	17	106	125	74.40%
595	La Crescent	283	0	0	0	4	142	146	51.59%
110	Lake City	104	0	0	0	11	67	78	75.00%
40	Lanesboro	103	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
161	LeRoy	84	0	0	0	18	43	61	72.62%
90	Lewiston	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
105	Lyle	68	0	0	0	3	35	38	55.88%
299	Mabel	157	14	78	92	14	108	122	77.71%
588	Mazeppa	60	0	5	5	2	43	45	75.00%
579	Millville	54	0	0	0	2	39	41	75.93%

75	New Richland	80	0	10	10	0	69	69	86.25%
544	Ostrander	20	0	0	0	0	15	15	75.00%
77	Owatonna	147	0	0	0	0	96	96	65.31%
526	Peterson	33	1	31	32	1	31	32	96.97%
179	Plainview	211	0	0	0	13	138	151	71.56%
166	Preston	28	0	0	0	0	1	1	3.57%
92	Rochester	210	3	12	15	7	140	147	70.00%
94	Rushford	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
249	Spring Grove	152	0	0	0	6	92	98	64.47%
68	Spring Valley	60	0	0	0	0	45	45	75.00%
190	St Charles	115	0	0	0	2	77	79	68.70%
164	Stewartville	209	0	0	0	3	138	141	67.46%
50	Wabasha	155	1	3	4	7	110	117	75.48%
587	Waldorf	34	0	0	0	0	29	29	85.29%
228	Waseca	272	0	0	0	5	161	166	68.38%
295	West Concord	40	0	0	0	0	29	29	72.50%
637	Whalen	26	0	0	0	0	23	23	88.46%
9	Winona	221	3	21	24	9	155	164	74.21%
369	Wykoff	19	0	0	0	0	13	13	68.42%
	1st District	5,847	34	288	322	247	3663	3910	66.87%

This time of the year can be busy for everyone and I wanted to connect with each of the units in the 1st District. The membership for 1st District is progressing slowly but we have now progressed to 8th place with 66.87% as of December 17.

There are only 3 units that have no membership turn-in and some that are just short of making goal. Please check with members who haven't paid whether via phone call or personal visit if possible. I am available to visit by phone or in person to help with any membership questions or concerns.

My main concern is that all units are receiving the 1st District newsletter. I am aware that not all members have access to computers for receiving the newsletter. If you have not received the newsletter I want you to contact me personally either by phone or email.

Patricia Miner

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



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GREETINGS

Greeting to all my American Legion Family,

I hope you a great Christmas and Happy New year. Membership is doing wonderful and I know everyone is working hard. Please keep up the wonderful work.

School is going very well and I am keeping busy between work and school. I do not get home as much as I would like but do talk to my folks on the phone and keep in touch with the Department through Facebook.

If you need me please feel free to text, e-mail or Facebook.

Heard that the Pearl Harbor Rally was a good turn in and fun was had by all. I would love to see turn in like that at every rally.

Have to get to work...Miss you all and hope to see you soon.

First District SAL Commander
Peter Mueller

To all American Legion To all American Legion Family members,
The SAL needs your help with getting some of our squadrons off the goose egg. We are doing ok on membership but need to get those ones who missed renewing their dues. Unfortunately they lost their hospital association fund but we still want them as members.
Please remember that all District and Department events involve the whole family and it would be great to see more SAL members attending and renew friendships.
Hope to see you all at the next event.
God Bless all Vets and their families.

Thank you,
Glenn Mueller, SAL membership

Omelet Breakfast—LaCrescent Squadron 595, 8am to 12pm on the fourth Sunday of every other month starting with August

December 17, 2014 Membership Report

Department of Minnesota
Membership Bulletin No. 5



National Goal 10,886
Department Goal 10,866
Current Membership 7,122

District	2015 Goal	Total 2014	Total 2015	Months Gain	Total Squads	% Of Goal	
District 1	1,920	1,879	1,219	164	41	63.49%	1,132
District 2	1,023	993	815	173	30	79.67%	697
District 3	1,805	1,769	1,256	167	36	69.58%	1,013
District 4	298	292	197	14	6	66.11%	192
District 5	407	401	314	63	6	77.15%	266
District 6	1,386	1,356	904	131	30	65.22%	1,043
District 7	969	950	471	91	19	48.61%	519
District 8	598	584	336	64	14	56.19%	377
District 9	768	753	464	70	15	60.42%	414
District 10	1,651	1,617	1,142	184	34	69.17%	1,097
District 11	8	6	4	0	2	50.00%	1
Totals	10,833	10,600	7,122	1,121	233	65.74%	6,751

Same Date
Last Year

Great job on EXCEEDING the 45% Target!

The Sweetheart Rally will be held at Chanhassen Post 580 on February 7, 2015. Look for tickets to be available for purchase from the District Commanders in mid January.

The American Legion Family Appreciation Rally will be held at Royalton Post 137 on March 7, 2015.

Mark your calendar now for upcoming events this year.

Spring Conference
Campout

March 21
June 26-28

Anoka
Legionville

2015 National Target Dates

60%	January 21 st	90%	April 8 th
75%	February 11 th	100%	May 13 th
80%	March 11 th	105%	July 23 rd

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



RIDERS CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT

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VICE—PRESIDENT

Jason Konkel
Houston, MN
507/450/0955

SECRETARY

Karla Miller
Winona, MN
507/459/5962

SGT AT ARMS

Kendall Bakkum
Rushford, MN
507/459/1473

TREASURER

Dennis Lewison
Adams, MN
507/440/6067

HISTORIAN

Nancy Lewison
Adams, MN

CHAPLAIN

Tom Carroll
Rushford, MN
507/450/0741

ROAD CAPTAIN

Tom Schmidt
Winona, MN
507/313/4302

First District Legion Riders

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, January 17th at 1 pm during the First District Mid Winter Conference in LaCrescent, Mn.

Winona Post #91 ALR will be hosting the Pasta supper on Saturday, February 28th, 2015. This is also the date for the gun raffle drawing. Funds raised will be used for the legacy fund and other American Legion family programs. ALR members have tickets to sell! There will be 750 tickets available at \$10.00 each. We encourage you to support this effort.

As part of the First District ALR Christmas party an ALR Rider of the year was announced. This year the honor went to Jason “Junkyard” Konkel. “Junkyard” has been a great help this year, traveling many miles with First District ALR President “Scuffy”. They have attended many Department & District functions. He has also stepped in as the First District ALR Vice President. If you attend a First District ALR function, please take note of the flag stands, hand-crafted by “Junkyard”. Congratulations!! Well deserved!

Department Standing Operating Procedures has been handed over to the Department of Minnesota Legion Commander to be reviewed by the Executive Board.

Donnie Smith Bike show is scheduled for March 28-29th. There is an ALR booth there to visit with potential new members.

Please contact “Scuffy” Paulson if you have questions regarding the First District American Legion Riders.

We ride to honor those who have served our country and to bring awareness to the American Legion Family.